

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 251033 TOSEC 290088

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ORIGIN SS-15

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USIA FOR IOP, IBS, IPS, IEU

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TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET REPORTS OF SECOND DEBATE

1. PRAVDA OCT 8 CARRIES AN ARTICLE FROM CORRESPONDENT
G. VASIL'YEV IN WASHINGTON ON THE SECOND FORD-CARTER DEBATE.
THE HEADNOTE EXPLAINS THAT THE LONG CAMPAIGN WILL CONCLUDE ON
NOV 2 AND CHARGES THAT THE VOTERS ARE STILL "UNCERTAIN"
WHAT THE TWO LEADERS OF THE "BOURGEOISIE PARTIES" STAND
FOR.

2. ON THE SECOND DEBATE ITSELF, PRAVDA SAYS THAT THE
TWO CANDIDATES REVEALED "MANY CONTRADICTIONS." IT CITES
SEVERAL POSITIVE POINTS IN PRESIDENT FORD'S PRESENTATION,
INCLUDING HIS ENDORSEMENT OF VLADIVOSTOK AND SALT, BUT IT
ALSO NOTES HIS COMMENT ON DEALING WITH "SOCIALIST"
COUNTRIES "FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH." ON CARTER, PRAVDA
MENTIONS HIS CALL FOR A WORLD FREE FROM THE THREAT OF

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PAGE 02 STATE 251033 TOSEC 290088

NUCLEAR WAR BUT ALSO NOTES HIS COMMENT THAT PEACE

DEPENDS UPON U.S. FORCES AND HIS CHARGE THAT THE FORD
ADMINISTRATION'S DETENTE POLICY IS "SOFT." THE ARTICLE
ENDS BY CITING A CBS COMMENT THAT "THE VOTERS HAVE NO
BASIS FOR ENTHUSIASM."

3. THE TRADE UNION NEWSPAPER TRUD CARRIES A TASS
NEW YORK ITEM WHICH OMITTS PRAVDA'S REFERENCE TO
"CONTRADICTIONS" AND CITES ONLY THE POSITIVE SIDE OF
FORD'S COMMENTS. CARTER'S POSITION IS DESCRIBED VERY
BRIEFLY AS SIMPLY THAT HE WOULD DO A BETTER JOB.

4. COMMENT. THESE ARTICLES CAREFULLY OMIT ANY
REFERENCE TO THE EASTERN EUROPEAN PORTION OF THE
DEBATE. THEY CITE MORE "GOOD" POINTS FOR FORD THAN
FOR CARTER, BUT PRAVDA REMAINS BASICALLY EVEN-HANDED
AND REPEATS THE STANDARD SOVIET LITANY THAT THERE
IS LITTLE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THEM.
MATLOCK UNQTE ROBINSON

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